Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for creating drill links in a report, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    a) ~~defining~~ accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the ~~definition~~ relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, ~~and~~ relations between the views, and a metadata layer that includes one or more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and the relations; and

    b) ~~generating~~ providing a user interface for creating a report that includes at least one drill link ~~associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the report ~~format~~ is in a HyperText Markup Language (HTML) format.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the report ~~format~~ is in a

Dynamic HyperText Markup Language (DHTML) format.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the report ~~format~~ is in an

eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the report ~~format~~ is in a

Portable Document Format (PDF) format.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the report ~~format~~ is in a

Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) format.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein the drill link includes a

reference to a second report.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein the drill link includes a

reference to an object not associated with the relational abstraction.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~10~~ 1 wherein the drill link includes a

reference to a computer program.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein the drill link includes a

reference to information about the report that includes the drill link.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~8~~ 12 wherein the drill link includes a

reference to ~~the~~ a context of the drill link within the report.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 8 1 wherein the drill link includes key values identifying a particular value within the report.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 wherein the drill link is additionally associated with an object of the relational abstraction ~~whose~~ , the object having a base view that is ~~the~~ a destination view of ~~the last~~ a relation in the sequence.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 1 wherein the drill link includes a reference to an object that is based upon at least one relational abstraction object ~~of the relational abstraction whose~~ having a base view that is ~~the~~ a destination view of ~~the last~~ a relation in the sequence.

19. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein the reference is to a report template.

20. (Original) A method of claim 18 wherein the reference is to an expression.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for following drill links in a report [[,]] comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) ~~defining~~ accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the ~~definition~~ relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, ~~and~~ relations between the views, and a metadata layer having one or

more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and

the relations;

b) ~~displaying~~ providing a user interface for creating a first report containing at

least one drill link ~~associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a~~

~~base view of the relational abstraction~~;

c) upon selection of ~~the~~ a drill link in the first report, extracting information

associated with the drill link; and

d) generating a second report using the extracted information.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original)   A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a

reference to an expression.

25. (Original)   A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a

reference to a report template.

26. (Original)   A method of 21 wherein the extracted information includes a

reference to another report.

27. (Original)   A method of claim 25 wherein a plurality of templates are

displayed for user selection.

28. (Original)   A method of 21 wherein extracted information includes a

reference to a relation.

29. (Original) A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to the first report.

30. (Original) A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to a dynamic web page for the second report.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to ~~the~~ a context of the drill link within the first report.

32. (Original) A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information includes a reference to grouping key values identifying a particular value within the report.

33. (Original) A method of claim 21 wherein the extracted information is used to apply a filter on the second report.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer system for creating drill links in a report, the system comprising:

a)   means for ~~defining~~ accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the ~~definition~~ relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, ~~and~~ relations between the views, and a metadata layer that includes one or more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and the relation; and

b)   means for ~~generating~~ providing a user interface for creating a report that includes at least one drill link ~~associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction~~.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer system for following drill links in a report, the system comprising:

a)   means for ~~defining~~ accessing a relational abstraction of a data store, the ~~definition~~ relational abstraction including a plurality of views, scalar or aggregate fields associated with the views, ~~and~~ relations between the views, and a metadata layer that includes one or more objects that contain properties describing the data store, the views, the fields, and the relation;

b)   means for ~~displaying~~ providing a user interface for creating a first report containing at least one drill link ~~associated with a sequence of zero or more relations originating at a base view of the relational abstraction~~;

c)   upon selection of the drill link, means for extracting the information associated with the drill link; and

d)   means for generating a second report using the extracted information.

36. (New) A method of claim 10 wherein the drill link includes a reference to a web page.

37. (New) A method of claim 12 wherein the drill link includes a reference to a location of the report.